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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop **PCT**  
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Sir:

Prior to examining the above-identified U.S. national phase application of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2004/003519, filed April 2, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.